

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1, 5-6, 8 and 10-16 as follows:

Listing of the claims:

I. (Currently Amended) An input method using [[an]] a touch panel input apparatus in which a touch panel is laminated onto a display screen of a display apparatus, a sensor unit is formed so as to be expanded to the outside of one side of said display screen, an instruction according to a touching position of a finger or a touch pen onto said sensor unit is given, and a controller generates a control signal on the basis of said instruction, comprising the steps of:

displaying a selection display, comprising a plurality of selection items along said side of said display screen, when the finger or the touch pen is touched to said sensor unit;

highlighting said selection items when the finger or the touch pen is near said selection items as the finger or touch pen remains in contact with said sensor unit and is moved along said side on said sensor unit;

selecting said highlighted selection item upon lifting the finger or the touch pen from contact with said sensor unit at the position of the highlighted selection item; and

cancelling a selection display when the finger or the touch pen remains in contact while being moved from said sensor unit to said display screen on said touch panel,

wherein a single touch and release operation of the finger or the touch pen with the sensor unit executes both an operation to display the selection display and an operation to select a desired selection item in the selection display.

2. (Original) An input method according to claim 1, wherein by operating a predetermined button on a display/sensor unit of said touch panel overlapped with said display screen, an instruction corresponding to said button is generated.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) An input method according to claim 1, wherein said selection display is a menu display.

5. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A touch panel input apparatus in which a touch panel is laminated onto a display screen of a display apparatus, comprising:

a sensor unit formed so as to be expanded to the outside of one side of said display screen; and

a controller to which an instruction according to a touching position of a finger or a touch pen onto said sensor unit is given and which generates a control signal on the basis of said instruction, wherein said controller controls the display apparatus in such a manner that a selection display comprising a plurality of selection items is displayed along said side of said display screen when the finger or the touch pen is touched to said sensor unit and one of said selection items is highlighted when the finger or the touch pen is near said selection items as the finger or touch pen remains in contact with said sensor unit and is moved along said side on said sensor unit, and said controller generates the control signal to instruct selection of said highlighted selection item upon lifting the finger or the touch pen from contact with said sensor

unit near the highlighted selection item and cancelling a selection display when the finger or the touch pen remains in contact while being moved from said sensor unit to said display screen on said touch panel, wherein a single touch and release operation of the finger or the touch pen with the sensor unit executes both an operation to display the selection display and an operation to select a desired selection item in the selection display.

6. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A touch panel input apparatus according to claim 5, wherein by operating a predetermined button on a display/sensor unit of said touch panel overlapped with said display screen, said controller generates an instruction corresponding to said button.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A touch panel input apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said selection display is a menu display.

9. (Previously Presented) An input method according to claim 1, wherein a selection operation is cancelled and said selection display is continued when the finger or the touch pen is moved along said sensor unit to an end area of said sensor unit out of range of said selection items on said display screen and thereafter lifting up the finger or touch pen from said sensor unit.

10. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A touch panel input apparatus according to claim 5, wherein a selection operation is cancelled and said selection display is continued when the finger or the touch pen is moved along said sensor unit to an end area of said sensor unit out of range of said selection items on said display screen and thereafter uplifting the finger or touch pen from said sensor unit.

11. (Currently Amended) An input method using [[an]] a touch panel input apparatus in which a touch panel is laminated onto a display screen of a display apparatus, a sensor unit is formed on said display screen, an instruction according to a touching position of a finger or a touch pen onto said sensor unit is given, and a controller generates a control signal on the basis of said instruction, comprising the steps of:

displaying a selection display, comprising a plurality of selection items on said display screen, when the finger or the touch pen is touched to said sensor unit;

highlighting said selection items when the finger or the touch pen is near said selection items as the finger or touch pen remains in contact with said sensor unit and is moved along on said sensor unit;

selecting said highlighted selection item upon lifting the finger or the touch pen from contact with said sensor unit at the position of the highlighted selection item; and

cancelling a selection display when the finger or the touch pen remains in contact while being moved from said sensor unit to said display screen on said touch panel, wherein a single touch and release operation of the finger or the touch pen with the sensor unit executes both an operation to display the selection display and an operation to select a desired selection item in the selection display.

12. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A touch panel input apparatus in which a touch panel is laminated onto a display screen of a display apparatus, comprising:

a sensor unit formed on said display screen; and

a controller to which an instruction according to a touching position of a finger or a touch pen onto said sensor unit is given and which generates a control signal on the basis of said instruction, wherein said controller controls the display apparatus in such a manner that a selection display comprising a plurality of selection items is displayed on said display screen when the finger or the touch pen is touched to said sensor unit and one of said selection items is highlighted when the finger or the touch pen is near said selection items as the finger or touch pen remains in contact with said sensor unit and is moved along said sensor unit, and said controller generates the control signal to instruct selection of said highlighted selection item upon lifting the finger or the touch pen from contact with said sensor unit near the highlighted selection item and closing the selection display when the finger or the touch pen remains in contact while being moved from said sensor unit to said display screen on said touch panel, wherein a single touch and release operation of the finger or the touch pen with the sensor unit executes both an operation to display the selection display and an operation to select a desired selection item in the selection display.

13. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A touch panel input apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the touch panel is larger than the display screen.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]~~ A touch panel input apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the touch panel includes (a) a display/sensor unit larger than the display screen and (b) the sensor unit.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]~~ A touch panel input apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the touch panel is larger than the display screen.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]~~ A touch panel input apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the touch panel includes (a) a display/sensor unit larger than the display screen and (b) the sensor unit.

17. (Previously Presented) An input method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing the touch panel to be larger than the display screen.

18. (Previously Presented) An input method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing the touch panel to include (a) a display/sensor unit larger than the display screen and (b) the sensor unit.

19. (Previously Presented) An input method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of providing the touch panel to be larger than the display screen.

20. (Previously Presented) An input method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of providing the touch panel to include (a) a display/sensor unit larger than the display screen and (b) the sensor unit.